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This paper is entitled to a place on the Printer's Ink Roll of Honor.

THE CALEDONIAN CO.

This Year's Harvest.

The farm value of some of the principal agricultural crops given in the annual report of the secretary of agriculture follow:

Rice, \$25,000,000.
Flaxseed, \$36,000,000.
Barley, \$88,000,000.
Beet and sugar cane products, \$95,000,000.
Tobacco, nearly \$100,000,000.
Potatoes, \$212,000,000.
Oats, \$400,000,000.
Hay, \$665,000,000.
Wheat, about \$725,000,000.
Cotton lint and seed, \$850,000,000.
Corn, about \$1,730,000,000.

Total value of this year's farm crops, \$8,760,000,000; gain over last year, \$869,000,000.

The above figures are so large as to be almost incomprehensible. Their greatest significance is that they represent actual production and not a speculative value. Counting the working year as 300 days American agriculture shows a daily production of \$258,366,667 of real wealth.

The real growth of agriculture is shown by the secretary when he gives the farm value of agricultural crops eleven years ago as \$4,417,000,000, just a little over half of the present year's output. It would be interesting to compare this increase with the increase in manufacturing, mining or commerce to see if any other form of manual labor could show as large a percentage of increase as agriculture has. We do not have the figures at hand but do not believe this growth can be exceeded.

Along with this increase in product has come still more marked improvement in the general conditions of farm life. The trolley, telephone, automobile, and farmers' organizations, especially the grange, good roads and the rural delivery have nearly obliterated the isolation that once was so much dreaded. Science has reduced to a large extent the fluctuations in production caused by varying natural conditions. The stability of a farmer's income gives him an independence that is the envy of the man whose wealth is at the hazard of speculation. The cheaper and improved facilities for travel give him an opportunity to educate himself in up-to-dateness almost equal to that of dwellers in towns and cities. The great transportation interests have come to realize that an increase in the agricultural products of a section means an increased income for them and they are beginning to study the promotion of agriculture in the same way that they have studied and promoted manufacturing.

Still more encouraging is the fact that agriculture has by no means reached its limit. Unless the signs fail the next decade will show as much improvement in agriculture as the last has accomplished. It is not coming from the opening of new areas of farming territory, although the territory is not exhausted, but as the result of improved methods of culture. Science has by no means exhausted its practical benefits for the farmer. Good roads are only begun. The railroads will do more and more as they begin to reap financial returns on their cooperation with the farmers. The increased intelligence and progressiveness of the farmer himself is sure to raise his standing and importance in the nation. So taken all in all farming today offers one of the most attractive careers to young Americans to be found in the country. While it does not give promise of a Vail, Rockefeller, Harriman or Morgan from a financial standpoint, it does promise something more valuable to the nation a great body of prosperous, progressive citizenship whose attainments are within the reach of all who will honestly labor and strive for an honorable goal. Farming is on the upgrade and we wish it all the success that it may attain.

Vermont's Editorial Meeting.

Nearly every progressive paper in the state was represented by its editor at a meeting of the editorial writers called by Pres. Hindley of the Vermont Press association at Montpelier last Friday. The business of the gathering is indicated by the following list of subjects proposed for discussion:

1. On Material Development—highway improvement; permanent trunk

lines; State or local control; expert supervision.

2. Forestry—Extension and control by State; encouragement to individual forestry; how to finance it.

3. Advertising Vermont—How best to attract summer tourists; development of summer accommodations; State convention for the advocacy of progressive ideas; publicity department for promoting State interests.

4. Changes in Constitution—Removing time-lock; basis of representation; State election in November and Legislature in January; require two-thirds majority to overcome veto; legislative members ineligible to offices filled by Legislature; no commutation of murderers by Legislature; no special legislation for corporations.

5. Court Reform—Reduction of Supreme Court to three members; elimination of assistant judges; improved minor courts.

6. Educational—Improved school system; provision for State Normal school and agricultural schools; by sinking fund or otherwise; minimum wages for teachers and higher standard of qualification.

7. Taxation—Uniform appraisal of property; taxation reform by taxing all property once and not taxing evidence of it.

8. Labor—Employers' liability or methods for caring for unfortunate; ten dollar wage exemption from trustee process.

9. Liquor—Proposed changes in law.

10. Elections—Caucus regulations and primary law; election of county clerks and officers by popular vote; use of money in politics.

11. Federal Constitution—Acceptance of income tax amendment; election of Senators by popular vote.

12. Administrative Reforms—Uniform system of municipal accounts and accounting; uniform village charters; State control of telephone lines; publicity in newspapers of all public notices; regulating care of the poor by counties instead of cities and towns; economy in State expenses; publicity of department news and appointments and nominations to the Senate; revision of House and Senate rules.

There was free expression on these matters so far as the time allowed and many instructive ideas expressed. While all did not think alike on any of these subjects each man present showed an appreciation of the importance of the topics and a disposition to consider them in his editorial columns so far as he was able. These texts probably will be seen very frequently in the Vermont press during the next few months and the people given an opportunity to form definite sentiment on these issues. It would add greatly to the value of the work if all citizens would take an active part in the discussion of these subjects and write the editors their ideas and call for information or write letters for publication over their own name.

The Champlain Memorial.

It is now evident that Vermont and New York will not erect a joint memorial to Samuel Champlain the discoverer of the body of water between those two states that bears his name. Vermont must erect as good a memorial as is possible to him on his own territory and New York proposes to do the same. On the Vermont commission, composed of strong Vermonters, rests the responsibility of determining the location and character of that memorial. Isle La Motte is suggested as the most suitable spot from an historic standpoint and the strength of its historical claim cannot be disputed. This country has had some experience in historically located memorials however that does not encourage a continuation of that class of memorials. A few months ago the press told us of the neglected condition of a memorial to Gen. Stark at his old home in New Hampshire, now an isolated spot with all the features of a deserted farm. Somewhere in the town of Fairfield hidden by undergrowth is a memorial to Chester A. Arthur on his historic birthplace. A memorial to Gen. Stannard in Georgia was given a long distance dedication recently because it rained and no one wanted to face the storm to reach its historically correct location. So the historic value of a spot does not always make it the most desirable. Vermont can best expend its money in honor of Champlain by erecting a memorial where it can always be reached by the public, where it can be seen by the travellers on the lake, and where it will always be cared for in a way that will add to its attractiveness. There is only one spot where all these conditions can be secured and that is in Battery park in Burlington. By erecting its memorial there Vermont will not be aiding Burlington in any material way but it will be showing high honor to the noted discoverer and will be doing the greatest credit to itself.

On December first nineteen steers weighing 29,868 pounds were sold in Chicago at nine and one half cents a pound live weight, or for a total price of \$2,837.46. That is \$149.34 a head. Of course these were a fancy lot of cattle but any intelligent stock raiser should be able to produce this class of cattle. Vermont farmers who have difficulty in securing enough help to conduct a large dairy farm should be able to study these figures with profitable results to themselves.

It is now stated that Pres. Taft did not refuse to see Congressman Foster and the English suffragette, Mrs. Snowden, that the president was busy and Mr. Foster knowing this did not ask for an audience but simply took Mrs. Snowden through the White House. This sounds very much more like Pres. Taft and Congressman Foster both for both are courteous gentlemen and would not willingly be a party to an affront to a woman of Mrs. Snowden's standing.

PRESS COMMENT.

The High Prices of Meat Partially Explained.

What makes meat so high? is a question that interests every consumer in the country, along with similar questions regarding the price of almost every necessity in life. Ask your meatman and he shrugs his shoulders resignedly; it's a matter beyond his control, he says, ask the people who make the prices. Armour & Co., one of the gigantic concerns that control the meat situation in this country, throw some light upon the subject through a financial statement recently submitted in connection with the listing of a bond issue. According to their own figures Armour & Co. made a gross profit of \$10,582,000 for the year on a capital stock of \$20,000,000, and earned a surplus of \$7,127,926, or the equivalent of a dividend of 35.6 per cent. These figures are enough in themselves to justify the charges of extortion brought against the so-called Beef Trust, and they form a pretty good answer to the question which begins this paragraph.—[Brattleboro Reformer.]

Governor Prouty.

Vermont is coming of late to recognize the merits of Governor George H. Prouty. For the first few months of his term Governor Prouty was so much maligned through jealousy and spite, and because, in the heat of controversy, some persons and some newspapers refused to give him fair treatment, that it was difficult to get an unprejudiced view.

The truth is, however, that Governor Prouty is proving himself all and more than his warmest friends anticipated. Below we print an editorial from the Northfield News on the subject of Governor Prouty. It will be remembered that the Northfield News is the home paper of Judge Stanton and strenuously opposed the candidacy of Mr. Prouty.

The Burlington Free Press finds that "Governor Prouty is coming in for no small amount of praise these days in different connections. Congressman Foster says Vermont's executive made an excellent impression in connection with the trip of President Taft and party in various parts of the Mississippi valley. There were 26 governors in the gubernatorial section of the party and Governor Prouty did not suffer in comparison with his colleagues as regards the manner in which he acquitted himself on every public occasion."

Congressman Plumley, who was also a member of the deep water ways party down the Mississippi, fully agrees with his colleague Foster as to Gov. Prouty's standing compared with the governors of other states.

The fact is the present chief executive makes a most happy impression at the public gatherings he is called upon to attend in his official position. He does not believe himself a good orator, and he does not try to make other people think so. He makes an excellent appearance before an audience, says what he wishes to say in an unpretentious but rather forceful way, is never set on an alarm clock plan and therefore can stop when he has finished, which is really quite an achievement in a public speaker.

Gov. Prouty has grown in public life and is likely to attain his honorable ambition to be credited with a highly satisfactory administration at the conclusion of his services.—[Bennington Banner.]

Eighty-one Cents a Day.

The school teachers have formed a union to secure proper recognition of their work and better pay.

The name of the organization is the "Vermont Teachers' Club."

Carefully compiled statistics prove that the average pay of the teachers in this state is only 81 cents per day.

Think of that will you, men of Vermont? How many of you would employ a man to work for you that was not worth more than that sum per day?

How many of you would work at any occupation for that sum?

Yet that is what you pay the teachers of Vermont. With parents shirking the responsibility of bringing up their children and training them in the right way so that they may grow up to become good, useful citizens, and throwing this work upon the school teachers, it is high time that we pay those teachers a fair, living wage.

Instead of letting our best teachers go to other states where they can earn decent pay, we ought to keep them all.

We need a higher class of teachers if we are to trust to them the future of our children and we certainly cannot get the right kind at 81 cents a day.

If they are worth hiring at all, pay them fair wages.

Read the article from the St. Johnsbury Caledonian in another column. It is an eye opener.—[Vergennes Enterprise and Vermont.]

Building in New England.

A few days ago a Wall Street publication, in reply to a correspondent's inquiry as to the probable future of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad system, referred to New England as being at a standstill. As if in prompt refutation of this assumption now comes the statement that the building record of New England is being handsomely broken in this very year. Up to November 17 the contracts awarded amounted to the enormous figure of \$144,665,000, not only the biggest total ever known in the history of New England's development, but \$30,000,000 in excess of the boom year 1906. There could be no stronger evidence of the confidence which business men feel in the future of New England. They are investing their capital in stores, houses and factories as never before, and for the obvious reason that they are confident that the investment will pay. New England is a long way from being at a standstill.—[The Manchester (N. H.) Union.]

Interdenominational Comity.

The annual meeting of the Interdenominational Comity Commission was held in Montpelier, Nov. 23. The research secretary of the Commission, Rev. G. F. Wells, who has given his time to the work since last May in a self-sacrificing way, read portions of an extended report, details of which were discussed and criticized. It became apparent that in the collection of data accuracy statement and correct classification was difficult, and inferences therefrom uncertain. Nevertheless there is promise that from the mass of material gathered some reliable statements may be secured. Too much should not be expected of the Commission at once. While there may be failure in some particular cases to eliminate superfluous churches, the effort, as

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Mrs. E. West, 137 Main St., Menasha, Wis., writes: "We have used Peruna in our family for a number of years and when I say that it is a fine medicine for catarrh and colds, I know what I am talking about. I have taken it every Spring and Fall for four years, and I find that it keeps me robust, strong, with splendid appetite, and free from any illness. A few years ago it cured me of catarrh of the stomach, which the doctors had pronounced incurable. I am very much pleased with Peruna."

Bowels and Stomach.

Miss Mary Jones, 7918 Reynolds Ave., Chicago, Ill., writes:

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the secretary said, may be of value in stimulating denominations to greater activity in work among the unreachd. There has been great progress in the state of late years toward comity and federation, and among the causes may justly be reckoned the leavening influence of the Interdenominational Commission.—[Vt. Missionary.]

Better Pay for Ministers.

Increase in the salaries of ministers is coming more and more to the front. In several instances of late this increase has been secured by the yoking of fields. In others there has been a call upon the Missionary Society to make good their "dollar for dollar" offer. The churches are evidently coming to realize that the greatly increased cost in living expenses has made the old-time salaries wholly inadequate.—[Vt. Missionary.]

Thaddeus Stevens.

An examination of the records of the trustees of the Peabody Academy reveals many interesting incidents. Among them one in which the great Thaddeus Stevens was involved. In the year 1811 the board of trustees consisted of Rev. David Goodwillie for 40 years pastor of the Presbyterian church in Barnet, Rev. Leonard Worcester and Joseph Fisher.

On October 7, 1811 these dignified gentlemen were in session regarding the misconduct of certain pupils and the record of their meeting is as follows:

Voted that the conduct of Messrs. Hall Chamberlain, Ephraim Elkins, Thaddeus Stevens, Samuel Merrill, Peter H. Shaw, Isaac Parker, Wilbur Fisk, David Gould, Thomas Wessen, Hezekiah R. Cushing, Lyman Martin, Abel Walker and Abel Hall, pupils in this Academy, in refusing on the day of public exhibition, being the 6th day of September last, to proceed in their exhibition in the day time while the board were waiting to see their performance is conduct highly reprehensible, and that their proceeding to exhibit a tragedy in the evening of said day contrary to the known rules and orders of the school and the express prohibition of the preceptor (Carter) was a gross violation of the rules and bylaws of the institution tending to subvert all order and subordination in said school and to disturb the peace of society and that they be required to subscribe the following submission viz: We the subscribers, students in the Academy at Peabody, having been concerned in the exhibition of a tragedy on the evening of the 5th of September 1811 contrary to the known rules of the board of trustees on reflection are convinced that we have done wrong in not paying suitable respect to the authority of the board and hereby promise that as long as we continue students at this academy we will observe such rules as the board may prescribe. Signed, Leonard Merrill, Lyman Martin, Ephraim Elkins, Thaddeus Stevens, Peter H. Shaw, Wilbur Fisk, Hezekiah Cushing, David Gould, Isaac Parker, Abel Walker, Thomas Wessen.

Minister 100 Years Old.

Special Services at Middlebury in Honor of Rev. S. W. Bidwell.

Special services were held at the Methodist church in Middlebury Sunday in honor of the Rev. Sedgewick W. Bidwell, who was 100 years old yesterday. He was present and spoke a few words. Mr. Bidwell was born in Starksboro and at 23 he was teaching at the school house he decided to enter the ministry, beginning to preach two years later, so that he

has been a preacher for 75 years, during which time he held pastorates in 22 towns in Vermont and New York. He is the oldest Methodist clergyman in Vermont and perhaps in the country. Mr. Bidwell takes exercise every day and occasionally reads and writes without glasses; has a wonderful memory, recalling the boom of the cannon at the battle of Plattsburg during the war of 1812. During his long career he has performed 300 marriages and nearly 400 funerals. His residence was known as a sort of Gretchen Green, and many are the amusing incidents told of his fees, receiving a bushel of potatoes, corn or other produce but he never refused an offer. He was twice married, first to Miss Evelyn L. Smith of Monkton in 1838, and his second wife was Miss Lucinda A. Tupper of Middlebury.

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